

(WASHINGTON, DC) - The city of Joshua's efforts to upgrade and improve the local drainage system will be bolstered by federal funds secured by Congressman Chet Edwards in the final 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, which passed the House today 247 to 178, and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law by the President in short order.

*"I want to thank Mayor Merle Breitenstein, city manager Paulette Hartman, and Joshua community leaders for bringing this important project to my attention. The immediate goal of this project is to prevent flooding, improve drainage, and improve quality of life for Joshua residents," **said Edwards, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.** "This project will help local leaders plan for the future, and promote economic growth."*

Joshua Mayor Merle Breitenstein said, *"We are grateful to Congressman Edwards for supporting our efforts to improve neighborhood drainage issues within the City of Joshua. The funding that he secured will help to address watershed problems and greatly improve the flood risk to homes."*

Edwards added \$1 million to the annual appropriations bill which, when signed into law, will be distributed directly to the City of Joshua through a State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Specifically, the funding will be used to upgrade and improve the city's local storm sewer drainage infrastructure, which currently consists largely of open ditches on the side of the streets.

The city of Joshua is experiencing rapid growth, and this system has proven inadequate to handle runoff with major rain events the past several years resulting in increased flooding. The funds will be used to replace these open ditch sewers with underground storm sewer pipes and provide improved drainage in an economical manner.